

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, LI

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT
TOLBERT

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED JUNE 20, 1978,
FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT. SIGNED
ORIGINAL FOLLOWS.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: WHEN I VISITED MONROVIA
ON APRIL 3 YOU PRESENTED ME WITH A DOCUMENT ENTITLED,
"BRIEFING NOTES AND PROPOSALS." I READ IT WITH INTEREST
AND HAVE DIRECTED THAT YOUR SUGGESTIONS BE STUDIED CARE-
FULLY. THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS HAVE NOW MADE THEIR REPORTS
AND AMBASSADOR CARTER WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR MINISTERS
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TO REVIEW YOUR PLANS AND THE HELP WHICH WE CAN PROVIDE.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT IN
THE FIELDS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LOW-COST SHELTERS IN
MONROVIA. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP
IN THE HEALTH AREA. I THEREFORE PROPOSE SENDING A TEAM
TO LIBERIA TO DETERMINE HOW WE CAN HELP YOU COMBAT RIVER
BLINDNESS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT WAS NOT RAISED IN YOUR MEMORANDUM, I HAVE ASKED OUR AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION TO

SEE WHETHER OUR SPACE CAPABILITY COULD BE OF BENEFIT TO LIBERIA. THEY HAVE RECOMMENDED TO ME THAT WE UNDERTAKE A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL USE OF SATELLITE IMAGERY IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND WEATHER PREDICTION. AMBASSADOR CARTER IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES IN ARRANGING SUCH A SURVEY, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

4. MOST IMPORTANTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE DESIRES YOU EXPRESSED TO BRING MORE OF THE BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT TO ALL LIBERIANS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO DO THIS IS TO PROVIDE A GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR LIBERIANS IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO ACQUIRE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT WOULD PERMIT THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES AND, AT THE SAME TIME, PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

5. SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT BE NATIONAL IN SCOPE, AND EXTEND OVER SEVERAL YEARS. IT MIGHT AIM AT THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAINING IN SPECIALIZED SKILLS RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF LIBERIA'S PEOPLE. IT COULD INCLUDE PRIMARY, SECONDARY
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AND VOCATIONAL AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

6. NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THIS TYPE HAVE LARGE MONETARY AND POLITICAL COSTS, AND REQUIRE THE SACRIFICE OF CERTAIN OTHER ACTIVITIES. BUT THE RETURNS CAN BE IMMENSE. WE ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING IN THIS AREA IF IT IS YOUR WISH, AND IF YOU ARE PREPARED TO COMMIT SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO THE PROGRAM.

7. ROSALYNN AND I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH THE MEMORY OF OUR VISIT TO LIBERIA AND THE WARMTH OF OUR RECEPTION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE INSCRIBED PHOTOGRAPHS; PLEASE ALSO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO THE LIBERIAN SENATE FOR THE KIND LETTER THAT THEY SENT TO ME. THESE WILL BE CONTINUAL REMINDERS OF OUR MEETING WITH YOU AND THE LIBERIAN PEOPLE, AND OF THE DEPTH AND CHARACTER OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

8. WITH EVERY GOOD WISH AND WARM REGARDS. SINCERELY,
(SIGNED) JIMMY CARTER. UNQUOTE.

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